

## REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated August 8, 2005 (Paper No. 20050727). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

Claims 3 through 11, 13, 14, 16 17 and 19 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 2, 12, 15 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Also, Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 19 are being amended to correct formal errors, place the claims in better form and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 19 is respectfully requested.

### Additional Amendments

The Specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification and to the Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

### Formal Objections/Rejections

The drawings were objected to in that the reference numbers on pages 13 and 14 of the Specification do not coincide with any of the drawing figures. Also, the drawings were objected to in that numerals 30, 31 and 32 in Figure 1 and the numeral 18 in Figure 9 are not mentioned in the description in the Specification. In response, the Specification has been amended and includes amendments addressing these objections to the drawings. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

### Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,853,015 to Tsuchiya, hereinafter the Tsuchiya '015 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,265 to Seko et al., hereinafter the Seko '265 patent.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Tsuchiya '015 patent in view of the Seko '265 patent, as applied to Claims 1, 2, 12 and 15, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0123816 to Steinberg et al., hereinafter the Steinberg '816 application.

In response, Claims 1, 2, 12, 15 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1, 2, 12, 15 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Also, the Office Action stated that Claims 3, 5 through 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 7)

In response, "objected to" Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form, substantially including the recitations of their respective base claims, with "objected to" dependent Claims 6 depending from Claim 5, "objected to" dependent Claims 9, 10 and 11 respectively depending from Claims 6, 7 and 8, and "objected to" dependent Claims 16 and 17 respectively depending from Claims 13 and 14.

Further, the Office Action stated that Claim 4 is allowed. (Office Action, Page 6).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3 through 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3, 5 through 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19, and confirmation of the allowability of Claim 4, are respectfully requested.

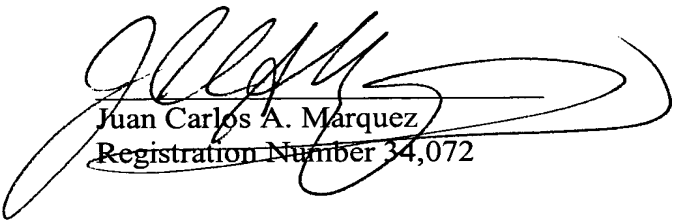
### Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
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Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200

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SPF/JCM/JB